

MOORSIDE, LITTLE HULTON,

February 27th, 1899.

To the Chairman and Members

OF THE

LITTLE HULTON DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my ANNUAL REPORT on the HEALTH AND SANITARY CONDITION OF THE LITTLE HULTON URBAN DISTRICT.

AREA AND POPULATION.—The area is 1,706 statute acres; the population, estimated to the middle of 1898, is 7,256, being an increase of 559 since the last census of 1891.

BIRTHS.—During the year 222 Births were registered (125 males and 97 females), being equal to a birth rate of 30·5 per 1,000 population; a decrease of four births as compared with the previous year.

DEATHS.—Number registered was 115 (56 males and 59 females), a decrease of 2 as compared with the previous year. The general death rate was equal to 15·84 per 1,000 population. Three inquests were held.

MORTALITY IN AGE GROUPS.—The subjoined tables show the deaths at various age periods :—

Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.
38	18	4	4	35	16
Total 115.					

INFANT MORTALITY.—There were 38 deaths of children under 1 year, an increase of 4 on the previous year, equal to a death-rate of 5·2 per 1,000 population, or to a death-rate of 171·1 per 1,000 births registered. The rate of infant mortality is high, being 33·04 per cent. of the total deaths, and is attributable to improper feeding, undue exposure, and such like preventible causes.

SUMMARY OF CAUSES OF DEATHS :—

Enteric or Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	4
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	1
English Cholera	...	...	...	...	...	2
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	2
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	...	...	8
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	1
Phthisis	...	...	...	...	...	6
Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy	...	...	...	...	...	31
Heart Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	4
Injuries	...	...	...	...	...	2
Congenital, Brain and other Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	54

115

ZYMOTIC MORTALITY.—The deaths from the seven chief Zymotic diseases, viz. :—Smallpox, Diphtheria, Scarlatina, Enteric or Typhoid, Measles, Whooping Cough, and Diarrhœa, were 14, being at the rate of 1·92 per 1,000 population, as compared with 2·08 per 1,000 population in 1897.

It is satisfactory to note no deaths occurred during the year from Smallpox, Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, or Whooping Cough.

TYPHOID FEVER.—Four of these deaths were due to Typhoid Fever. Two were traceable to defective drainage and otherwise insanitary premises; the origin of one was obscure, and one was suffering from the disease before taking temporary residence in your district.

MEASLES.—This disease was prevalent at the beginning of the year, in the Worsley Road part of the district, and was of a severe type. Every precaution possible was taken to prevent its spread, and only two cases ended fatally.

DIARRHŒA—Caused eight deaths, and were, no doubt, due to unfavourable climatic conditions, unripe fruit, and improper food.

RESPIRATORY DISEASES.—There were 31 deaths from Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy, fifteen being children under five years of age, giving a death rate of 4·2 per 1,000 population, as compared with 6·9 per 1,000 population in 1897.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFICATION—Act adopted by you in 1897.

The number of cases notified were 25, of which 22 were certified by medical practitioners, as compared with 15 in the previous year. They were, Scarlet Fever 7, Enteric or Typhoid 8, Puerperal Fever 1, Cholera 3, and Erysipelas 6; all of which were treated in their own homes, except a Typhoid Fever case—a resident of Westhoughton—which was removed to the Farnworth Infectious Diseases Hospital, and which ended fatally. I have visited every case notified since my appointment, and have reported to you each month their causes in as far as they could be ascertained, and also the precautions that have been taken to prevent the spreading of the diseases. It is now better known that disinfectants are kept at your offices and supplied gratuitously. They have been regularly used with good effect in the schools and other public places in the district, and have been of great benefit in the private houses.

WATER SUPPLY—Has been of good quality, and except for a short time in certain parts of the district, when the pressure was insufficient owing to defective valves, has been plentiful.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, SLAUGHTER-HOUSES, BAKE-HOUSES, SCHOOLS, WORKSHOPS, &c.—Have all been inspected.

There are 22 Dairies and Cowsheds in your district, and with one exception were found clean and in satisfactory condition. I made a detailed report on the one in question on Nov. 7th, 1898, and improvements have since been made, but it is still in a far from sanitary condition, both the buildings and house being unsuitable for dairy purposes. Five farms are not supplied with Bolton Corporation Water, having to depend on wells or pits for the same.

Slaughter-houses are 9 in number, all in good order.

Bake-houses, Schools and Workshops were all found clean, well lighted, ventilated and commodious.

STREETS—Are on the whole in a better condition than last year. A number of the side and back streets are still unpaved, and in wet weather impassable.

GENERAL SANITARY WORK.—The number of houses in the district is 1,486, a number of which are not connected with the main sewer, no less than 50 in Worsley road being in this condition. It is advisable that these be connected as early as possible.

Forty written notices have been issued to abate nuisances, most of which have been attended to.

There are yet a large number of damp, unpaved back yards, and uncovered ashpits, which are a source of great danger to the health of the community.

The Scavenging, which you let to Contractors, has been well done, except in some parts of West Ward.

I again recommend a regular systematic house-to-house inspection, so that any insanitary arrangement may be at once remedied.

I am, yours obediently,

J. H. MARSH,

Medical Officer of Health.